LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method of measuring an analyte concentration in body fluid in an animal body having skin and subcutaneous soft tissue that includes body fluid, said method comprising:

(a) providing an analyte measuring device, including:

(i) an analyte sensing element, having a sharpened distal end to facilitate introduction into said animal body and further having an indicating electrode covered by an absorbent or spreading layer forming an exterior surface of said analyte sensing element;

(ii) an electric power, data processing and display device adapted to mate to said analyte sensing element and activate said analyte sensing element by applying electric power to it and adapted to receive said raw analyte measurement and to compute and display a refined analyte measurement, related to said raw analyte measurement;

(b) introducing said analyte sensing element into said animal body subcutaneous soft tissue, thereby placing said absorbent layer into contact with said animal body subcutaneous soft tissue and said body fluid;

(c) permitting said absorbent layer to become saturated with body fluid;

(d) removing said indicating electrode from said body soft tissue;

(e) activating said analyte sensing element after removing said indicating electrode from said body soft tissue by applying electric power to said analyte sensing element, thereby causing said analyte sensing element to form a raw analyte measurement; and

(f) receiving said raw analyte measurement in said electric power, data processing and display device and computing and displaying a refined analyte measurement, related to said raw analyte measurement.

2-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein an enzyme layer is interposed between said indicating electrode and said absorbent layer.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein a redox mediator layer is interposed between an enzyme layer and said indicating electrode.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein a permselective layer is interposed between an enzyme layer and said absorbent layer.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein an interferent excluding layer is interposed between an enzyme layer and said absorbent layer.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein, in step (d), said analyte sensing element is removed from said animal body within about 20 seconds of being introduced into said animal body.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein, in step (d), said analyte sensing element is removed from said animal body within about 5 seconds of being introduced into said animal body.

32. (Previously Presented) A method of measuring an analyte concentration in body fluid in an animal body, said method comprising:

providing an analyte sensing element having an indicating electrode covered by an absorbent layer forming an exterior surface of said analyte sensing element;

introducing said analyte sensing element into soft tissue of said animal body, thereby placing said absorbent layer into contact with said animal body soft tissue and said body fluid;

removing said analyte sensing element from said animal body and then activating said analyte sensing element, thereby causing said analyte sensing element to form an analyte measurement; and

receiving said analyte measurement.

33. (Cancelled).

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, further comprising permitting said absorbent layer to become saturated with body fluids prior to removing said analyte sensing element from said animal body.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, further comprising removing said analyte sensing element from said animal body within about 20 seconds of being introduced into said animal body.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, further comprising removing said analyte sensing element from said animal body within about 5 seconds of being introduced into said animal body.

37. (Cancelled).

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein an interferent excluding layer is interposed between an enzyme layer and said indicating electrode.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said absorbent layer comprises carboxymethylcellulose.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said absorbent layer comprises gelatin.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said absorbent layer comprises a microporous coating comprising inorganic particles in a polymeric binder.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein an interferent excluding layer is interposed between an enzyme layer and said indicating electrode.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein said absorbent layer comprises carboxymethylcellulose.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein said absorbent layer comprises gelatin.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein said absorbent layer comprises a microporous coating comprising inorganic particles in a polymeric binder.